

Press Release
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Working Conditions
25 January 2021

JMC on mandatory use of face shield even outside of workplace, issued

Recently, the Department of Labor and Employment, jointly with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Transportation, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippines Sports Commission and Games and Amusements Board issued a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) entitled *Clarificatory Guidelines on the Mandatory Use of Face Shields Outside of Residence for COVID-19 Mitigation*.

The clarificatory guidelines was issued pursuant to Resolution No. 88 of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the management of emerging infectious diseases mandating all persons to wear full-coverage face shield together with face masks, earloop masks, indigenous, reusable, or do-it-yourself masks, or other facial protective equipment even outside of residence.

Previously, the use of face shield was required only in specific spaces such as in workplaces, malls, or public utility vehicles/bus. However, under the new JMC, use of face shield are now required in the following settings: community (individuals outside of residence), workplace and business establishments, film and audiovisual production activities, health-enhancing physical activities and sports, active and public transport.

Additionally, findings on non-compliance to the guidelines shall be referred to relevant entities for further evaluation and filing of penalties, if warranted. Pursuant to existing guidelines issued by the national government, violators may be subject to fair and humane penalties or punishments that may be imposed by local government units or law enforcement agencies, among others.

For guidelines on proper use of face shields, you may refer to Department Memorandum No. 2020-0534 issued by the Department of Health. While copy of Resolution No. 88 of the IATF-EID may be viewed at <https://covid19.gov.ph/>

-PAGDO &LGBZ-